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“ I do not know what I may become at last : I may, for aught I know, become an oyster before I die ; but, no one can, at any rate, say that I am not a consistent politician.—SIR FRANCIS BURDETT'S SPEECH AT THE CROWN AND ANCHOR, IN THE YEAR 1818.

TO

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, BART.

ON HIS SPEECH OF THE 9TH. INSTANT, RELATIVE TO THE CORN PROJECT.

Kensington, 15th March, 1827.

SIR,

IN my last Register, I told the good fellows of the North, that I would, in the present Register, clearly explain to them the important WHY : that is to say, WHY the Landlords, the Landowners, the Landsquires, the Pheasant Gentry, the tread-mill inventors ; WHY this generous class, to whom you declare it an honour to belong, do not choose to save their estates by a reduction of the taxes, rather than by the means of a tax on the people's bread. Before I have closed this letter, I will fulfil my promise as to the explaining of this important WHY ; but, I address myself to you instead of

addressing myself to the Weavers of the North, not by any means, however, because you are more entitled to any one's respect than they are ; but, because, if the newspapers speak truth, you have been poking and blundering round about and about the subjects which are most closely connected with that of the great WHY.

I do not pretend to assert that the thing which I am about to comment on as your speech, really was your speech. But, I find it as I found Canning's Æolian production, published in the newspapers ; and, I may further observe, that, as to the substance, I find the Old Times and the Morning Chronicle per-

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[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

fectly agree in their report of this speech. In this publication, I find all manner of wild and foolish matter. Inconsistency and almost self-contradiction in every other sentence. Several true statements, several just observations, several profound suggestions; several of these mixed up with the crude, inconsistent, fallacious rubbish before mentioned; but, if this report be a true report of your speech, the most shameless plagiarist you are that ever lived; for, not one particle of valuable matter does it contain which you have not read a hundred and a hundred times over in the Register; besides having the principles urged upon you from my lips a greater number of times than the number of my fingers and toes, and of all the joints in those fingers and toes.

I need not say this to the readers of the Register, who, when I come to quote this thing called your speech will be astonished at the barefacedness of the plagiarism. The points; that is to say, the principal points, of the speech are as follows:

1. The excellent character of the people called country gentlemen; their great generosity and their remarkable attachment to fair play.
2. The prosperity which reigned throughout the country during the late war with France.
3. The cause of that prosperity being turned into distress.
4. The necessity of an "equitable adjustment."
5. The necessity of bringing back the paper system, in order to cause a restoration

of the state of prosperity which existed before the war.

As to the first of these, the excellent character of the people called country gentlemen; their great generosity and their remarkable attachment to fair play, it was a pity (seeing how desirable it is that this should be true) that you did not produce some *proof* of it: one little instance or two, would surely have done no harm! Why not then give us one instance, at any rate, of the justice; and, above all things, of the generosity of these Ash-stick Gentlemen? You asserted, that there was not any set or class of men "more liberal, more virtuous, more respectable in every point of view, in this country or in any country in the world, than the class to which you have the honour to belong; that that class formed, indeed, the *grand distinction* among the nations of the *civilized world*." So it does; and a very grand distinction it is; for, it distinguishes the country from all other countries, by abetting and supporting a system which is more productive of crime, moral and legal; more productive of baseness of every description; more productive of bribery, corruption, perjury; more productive of injustice, cruelty, bodily and mental misery, deaths, ignominious by the executioner's hand or by suicide; more productive of all these, than any other system ever invented by mortal man. The whole of the "set or class," including those of them who are in Scotland and in Ireland, contain in their breasts, carry about constantly in their bosoms, a greater quantity of contumely, arrogance, tyranny, and insolence, than, so may God help

me, as I sincerely believe to be contained in the breasts of all the rest of mankind. If the fact could be ascertained, I would stake my existence on it; and, having thus endeavoured to describe their vast superiority over the rest of mankind in point of insolence, it is hardly necessary to say that their ignorance is equal to their insolence. Their cruelty and insolence are manifested by the *game affairs*, the *tread-mill affairs*, the anti-population schemes, and by a thousand other things equally horrible. Of their ignorance, we want no other proof, than the bare existence of the *mess*, in which they now are! What more do we want to show, that this is at once the most stupid and most insolent set of men that ever breathed. You did not, I confess, extol very highly, the *wisdom* of this class to which you had the *honour* to belong; and, the only proof, that you attempted to produce of their justice, was merely, that some country gentleman had said that he would *strip the coat off his back*, before he would consent to a reduction of the interest of the debt. The words put into your mouth are these; and, words more silly never dropped from tongue or pen. They cannot have been your real words; or, if they were, Lord have mercy upon the noddles of your constituents! "The Hon. Alderman had charged the landed gentlemen with being reckless of all interests but their own; and he had intimated that they were ready, for their own relief, to apply a sponge to the national debt. He (Sir F. Burdett) had heard declarations made in that House, which could leave no

"doubt of the groundlessness of that imputation. When hints of that kind had been thrown out, some landed gentlemen had declared, sooner than lower the interest of the public debt, they would strip the coats off their backs; and even stronger expressions had been uttered, which he would not repeat. But he would say, that on such occasions, none had expressed themselves more warmly than the Landed Gentlemen."

Famous logic! There could be no doubt that the landowners did not want to apply a sponge because you had heard some of them declare that they would strip the coats off their backs, before they would apply the sponge! It is curious enough, that the man (for there was but one), who said that he would strip the coat off his back, was the very man, who declared, and in the same place too, that your words, uttered against these very country gentlemen, made *his hair stand on end*; and, therefore, he moved that you should be sent to the Tower, whither you were sent, and out of which you came in the manner we all so well recollect! Oh! no, "Mr. Country Gentleman," we are not to be satisfied by reasons like this; there is printed evidence, now on the table of the House itself, to prove, that, while poor starving creatures were and are transported for seven years, for being out by night in pursuit of hares, pheasants and partridges; and while the same code of laws, makes it criminal to sell hares, pheasants and partridges; while this is the case, and while the

gaols are full of men, whose only crime is that of having killed or sought to kill some of these animals; while this is the case, there is evidence before the House of Commons to prove, that the "Country Gentlemen" are *great sellers of game themselves*; and that, the mean blackguards regularly make a traffic in it, as much as higglers carry on a traffic with the poulterers in pigeons, fowls, ducks, geese, and turkeys. An honor is it to belong to a set like this! This honor is a commodity that has one great convenience to it, at any rate; and that is, that nothing above the rank and office of hangman will grudge you the possession of it. 'Tis your acres: 'tis your acres that people grudge you: in all other respects there is no "set" in the country more despised, and, none more worthy of being despised; for this is their real actual situation: they *have lost their estates* (or they are just going, mind!) because they approved of loans, approved of wars, approved of Habeas Corpus suspension acts; of power-of-imprisonment bills, of gagging bills; and all this because they thought that these measures would *prevent the people from having a chance of recovering their just rights*. This is the cause of their losing their estates. Their desire to *prevent the people from being restored to the enjoyment of their rights*: this desire caused them to approve of measures which have at last produced the prospect which now frightens them out of their senses; those of them, I mean, who have any senses; for those of them who appear to have none are by no means few in number. Never was there a set of men, of

mean, cruel, cowardly, tyrants more justly punished than the "Country Gentlemen," as you now call them, have been, and will be. Their great object has been to *prevent the people from regaining their rights*: their reward will be (in many cases it already has been) the *loss of their estates*. Never was justice more perfect than this; and this I have heard you assert as many times as you have individual hairs in your beard. I said it *then*, and the difference between you and I, is, that I say it *now*; while you are rummaging about to see if you cannot find out some scheme or other, for preserving the estates to the Country Gentlemen-fellows, without doing any thing that shall expose the concern to the *danger of letting in the people to the enjoyment of their rights*. This is your present object; an object directly at variance with that which you have been professing to have in view, the whole course of your political life, till within these last two or three years. I have the satisfaction to know, however, that, in this object you *cannot* succeed: the very nature of things is against you: the people must have those rights for which you affected to be so long contending, or, you must lose your estates. The people may regain their rights and you lose your estates too. That is amongst the *amiable* chances, secured to themselves by the haunters of BROOKE'S and BOODLE'S: that is among the chances that their wisdom has secured for them; but, they have the CERTAINTY of losing their estates or seeing the people restored to their rights; and if you can recommend an

equitable adjustment, and not at the same time expect the people to be restored to their rights, you are no longer a person to be reasoned with.

Leaving your amiable "Country Gentlemen:" or, rather, endeavouring to pull you from their beloved company for a little while; though you used to talk wildly about late hours and bad company; drawing you away a little, from the mild and just and intelligent set of which you are now so much enamoured, let me ask whether it be really true, that you did, on Friday last, the 9th day of March, pronounce an *eulogium on the late war against France*? The words imputed to you are these:—"It was his opinion, however, that, *if the currency had not been altered, there would have been no agricultural distress*. What was the evidence of facts on this subject? *During the twenty years previous to the late change in the currency, there had been no distress in the country; but, on the contrary, while there was a large annual importation of foreign corn, every interest, including that of agriculture, flourished in an extraordinary degree*. The only wonder was, how, after so prodigal an expenditure, the country had not only been able to bear it, but, at the close, to find itself *more flourishing and prosperous than it was at the commencement of the war*. The agricultural interest had never been injured by the importation of foreign corn till another cause had operated upon it: and then, and not tell then, the distress ensued."

So then, that war was, after all,

a most excellent concern. The country was, you say, more flourishing and prosperous at the end of it, than it was at the beginning of it. If this were true, then, the war was a good thing. All the interests flourished, you tell us. What a pity it was then that the war ever ceased; and, what a couple of wretched jackasses, or something a great deal worse and more despicable, must *you and I have been*, who were, during so many years, and you, during more years than I, representing that war as unjust, unnecessary, profligate in principle, desolating in practice, *tending*, to a certainty, and fairly presumed to be *intended*, to *crush the spirit of reform for ever*; to destroy the reformers root and branch, and to stifle for ever the voice of liberty in England! What a couple of pretty fools, or of most villanous knaves, you and I must have been for putting forth these representations almost every day of our lives, and for pressing them upon the public by every means in our power: nay, for censuring very harshly, all those of our countrymen who did not agree with us in opinion and who did not join us in effort! What a couple of pretty scoundrels we must have been, or what cell in any mad-house was dark enough for us, if your opinions, if your assertions, now delivered, respecting that war, be correct.

Here, there is no change of circumstances to justify your change of opinion: no new light could have broke in upon you: you cannot have learned any thing now that you did not know at the time when you condemned that war, its authors, its abettors, its principles, its practice, and when

you ascribed to it every calamity that the country was suffering; for, you continued to bellow forth this condemnation until the year 1816 inclusive; that is to say, two years after the conclusion of the war! So that, whether you begin to feel the oystershell creep round you or not, in fulfilment of the hypothesis expressed in the motto of this letter; whether you really be getting into that state which may place you in danger of being, at last, actually gobbled up by some Rag-rook, or his fat-sided or sooty-necked wife; whether you be really getting into this state or, perhaps, rather into the state of a crab more than that of an oyster; whether this be the case is more than I can say; but I surely may venture to say, that, if you were to become an oyster the moment you ceased to be a "consistent politician," an oyster you would have been long and long enough ago.

But there is something in this passage, a great deal more astonishing than any inconsistency on your part. You seem to have been in a trance for the last twenty or thirty years. You seem to have been *dreaming*, and to have gotten a set of indistinct and jumbled notions into your head, respecting what has taken place in the country during that time. You have been a *Member of Parliament all the time, too*. That's strange! For a considerable part of the time you have been "Westminster's Pride and England's Glory:" at any rate, you have been making speeches about politics; about the measures of the Government; you have been finding fault of the acts of the Government; you have been censuring kings, royal

families, nobles, bishops and parsons. You have a thousand times been declaring, and in the most authoritative manner, too, that the House in which you sit ought to be reformed. A man that meddles in this sort of way ought to know *something* at least of the things he is talking about. He ought to be able to recollect something about dates and acts. A man that has been sitting at the passing of all the Acts of Parliament, for so many years, ought to know something of the time when the Acts were passed. Let us try you then by this standard. You here tell us, unless the reporter of the *Morning Chronicle* be a liar, that "during the *twenty years* previous to the late change in the currency, there had been *no distress in the country!*" Awake! Cease to dream, good Member for Westminster. The change in the currency took place in 1819, in the month of July; that is to say, that change was enacted at that time, but no change did really take place until the year 1821. Now, the twenty years previous to 1819, would carry us back to the month of July 1799, just about the time, I believe, that GENERAL BRUNE, who had been a printer's boy in LIMOSIN, was pursuing, in the most unmannerly manner, his late lamented Royal Highness the Duke of York, from VALENCIENNES to the HELDER; or (I really forget which it was), when Buonaparte was thumping old SUWARROW in the TYROL; and, at any rate, not only much about the time, but at the very time, when you were making the whole country ring with the name of GOVERNOR ARIS!

This, then, was "*twenty years*

"previous to the late change in the currency." The twenty years were between July 1799 and July 1819; and, if there were "NO DISTRESS IN THE COUNTRY," during that twenty years, those who reported your speeches during those twenty years, were the most infamous liars that ever marked words upon paper; those who heard your speeches during those twenty years, of which hearers I was one, were all stricken with stupidity, so as to be deprived of their comprehension; or, he who made the speeches was — — — what I will not describe!

As to the facts, however, since you ask, "What are the facts upon this subject?" I will tell you what the facts are; namely, that great distress has prevailed in the nation for the last thirty years and more; that, during the "twenty years" in which you now tell us there was "no distress in the country," the poor rates *rose from four millions to eight millions a year*; that in the year 1812, and previous to that, but particularly in 1812, singular distress prevailed in the manufacturing districts; that a woman and a little boy were hanged in Lancashire in that year, the woman, at least, for seizing potatoes, at her own price, out of a market-cart in Manchester; that the combination laws were passed in that year for the purpose of keeping down the starving weavers; that in 1814 and 1815, the most horrible distress prevailed in the farming districts; that, in those two years, several parishes were left without the means of supporting the poor; that MR. BRAND (now Lord Dacres) stated in the House

of Commons that the labouring poor had formed themselves *into bands* and were prowling through the country in search of food; that a report of the Agricultural Society, or *Board of Agriculture*, stated that horrible distress prevailed in all the Agricultural districts; that report recommended various most desperate remedies, every one of which clearly indicated that the ailment was most dreadful; that, in 1816, there were meetings in all parts of the country on the subject of means to alleviate the general distress; that there was one held in London, at which Lord Cochrane attended, when he suggested that the weight of the taxes was the cause of the sufferings, and his conduct on that occasion *received your unbounded applause*; that, in the year 1817, the manufacturers in the north were plunged into, then, unexampled distress; that they, penetrated by the truths which you had assisted to inculcate, and, acting upon the principles which you had taught, and particularly upon the advice which you had so urgently pressed upon them, petitioned for a Reform of the House of Commons; that forth came the power-of-imprisonment bill, and opened the dungeons to receive the more intelligent and public-spirited part of these distressed and starving petitioners. Yet, with these facts, notorious to all the world, the newspapers tell us that you boldly asserted that there was "no distress in the country" for twenty years previous to "the late change in the currency," which change, it is notorious to every body, was not enacted until 1819! You will,

perhaps, be a little more cautious, for the future, how you challenge the evidence of facts in support of what you assert.

In speaking of the alteration in the value of money caused by the acts of the government, you repeat, with true school-boy-like fidelity, that which you had learned from the everlasting dunnings of the Register. You apply, apparently in a very *adroit* manner, an illustration suggested by the late change in the capacity of the English corn measure. You are reported to have said, "something had been said, in the course of this discussion, respecting the change that had been made from the Winchester Measure to that which was termed the Imperial Measure. This change would illustrate his opinion of the cause from which all the difficulties of the country had arisen. He was one of those who thought that the distress was altogether artificial, that it resulted from bad legislation, and from bad legislation alone. There had been another very material change, not only of the bushel that was applicable simply to corn, but of that common measure of the value of all commodities in the land, which was called currency; and this change had been nearly in the same proportion as that from the Winchester measure to the Imperial, namely, about one-third. The Country Gentlemen found themselves embarrassed because they were called upon to pay the same amount of taxes out of a diminished income. Suppose, for example, an Act of Parliament had been passed, requiring persons who had entered into con-

tracts in the Winchester measure to fulfil them in the Imperial measure, could such a proceeding be justified? Would it not be a gross fraud upon those who had entered into the contracts? This was just the case of the country. Government, he believed, was not aware of the effect it would produce when it changed the currency."

Very pretty, a very pretty illustration: "*fine words; I wonder where you stole 'em,*" as Swift said in answer to some fellow, who had taken the motto of "*Libertas et natale solum.*" Very fine words indeed, Sir Francis; but did you not read this very illustration, in a petition, sent by me from Long Island in the year 1817, and published in London early in the year 1818. And here we have to admire the wonderful way in which your memory works. You had forgotten all about the horrible distress which prevailed in the country during the twenty years preceding the year 1819; but, you remembered well the simile of the "*Winchester bushel;*" and, your convenient memory shut itself up so as to prevent you recollecting the author of the illustration!

The truth is, that nothing TRUE and NEW can be said upon this subject. I have said it all: I have said it all a hundred times over: I've said it all in every way, and put it in every shape that fact or argument can assume. I wish the whole band of you did hate the devil with the thousandth part of the cordiality that you hate me: I wish you feared the devil a thousandth part as much; but hate or fear, or what you will, my principles you must adopt, my arguments you must repeat, almost

my very words you must resort to the use of; you may swear and rave, and vow that you will perish rather than come to my shop; but, **TO MY SHOP YOU MUST COME, AND TO MY SHOP WILL COME!** It is always open to you; there is a cordial reception for you; but you shall come by *day-light*, and in at the *front door*. Mind, I tell you that you shall, and you will, come to that shop: and the longer you keep from it, the worse it will be for you, and I beg you to *mind that too*. In the debate of the 8th of March, Lord Clive had said, that before the rates of duty on corn were fixed, "*the question of the currency ought to be settled.*" A very wise observation; for, before you settled on *how many shillings* the farmer ought to receive for his quarter of wheat, you ought to have settled what the *value of each shilling should be*; for, if the present law continue in force until it come into complete operation, I am quite sure that a shilling of May 1829, will be equal in value to two shillings of the present day. That I am sure of. I have no idea that the **THING** can go on to that point; but, if it could, such would be the result. Mr. PROSPERITY ROBINSON, however, always good humoured and with a tongue that seems to run as glibly, and not much more under the control of thought, than that of a youth just broke loose from school, gave, as the newspapers tell us, the following answer to Lord Clive: "My Honourable Friend says, that we ought not to make any alteration in the Corn Laws at present, because we have not settled the question of the currency. *Why I*

thought it was settled. Have I been in a dream on that subject? Do I merely fancy that my Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department introduced a Bill in 1819 for the purpose of bringing back the currency to its former condition? It is true that a temporary deviation from that Bill took place in 1822, a deviation which I for one greatly regret; but last year we applied a practical remedy to the evil of that deviation by accelerating the period at which country notes should cease to be issued. Really, Sir, I know not what we can do more with respect to the currency. I shrewdly suspect, however, that what is meant by settling the question of the currency, is making an alteration in the standard. That appears to be the object recommended in all the pamphlets which have been written on the subject; together with something, of which I confess I can make neither head nor tail, but which is called 'equitable adjustment.' If that be the real object, if it be proposed as a preliminary to any change in the Corn Laws to alter the standard, I hope to God that such a proposition will never be listened to by this House, and I am quite sure that as long as his Majesty's present Government exists, such a proposition will never be successful."

Mr. PEEL is by the newspapers reported to have said, in the same debate, that, if a great sending of the money out of the country took place under a limited importation of corn, "let honourable Members consider how much more

“extensive it would be if, under
 “the present system, corn rose to
 “*eighty shillings*, and the ports,
 “of necessity, kept open for three
 “months [hear, hear!]? In the
 “case of such a scarcity, as
 “opened the ports in this way,
 “speculations would be indulged
 “in to the greatest extent, and
 “must be paid in gold, so that
 “such a run would be caused upon
 “the Bank as must disturb the
 “present currency of the country
 “[hear, hear!]. An Honourable
 “gentleman had complimented
 “him (Mr. Peel) upon having
 “introduced the measure which
 “established that currency; let
 “them now adopt a measure,
 “which would bring back upon
 “the country a return of those
 “evils which a different system
 “had brought upon them, and
 “which he now hoped and trusted
 “were nearly overcome.” This
 notion about “*danger of disturbing our currency*,” is a very ugly
 notion. If our currency can be
 disturbed by commercial trans-
 actions, it is not in so very firm
 a state as MR. ROBINSON would
 have us believe it is. The chief
 value, however, of the sayings of
 these two ministers is this, *that*
they do really believe that all the
one pound notes can be done away
with, without producing any very
great distress in the country.
 We gather this from what they
 said; and we gather further, *that*
they are resolved to push on
their law, which has doomed
the one pound notes to destruc-
tion. If they do that; if
 they destroy the one pound
 notes; if their law of last year go
 into full effect: it never will, I
 should suppose, because horrible
 convulsion will stare the Ministers

in the face long before they come
 to that point: but, if this law were
 to go into full effect, the average
 price of English wheat would not
 exceed about *three shillings and*
three pence a bushel! I have not
 the least doubt upon this subject:
 the price will in some measure
 depend upon the seasons. In very
 dear years the wheat might be
 five shillings a bushel; but I do
 think that three and three pence
 will be about the average. There
 is one happiness here, which does
 not frequently accompany us in
 political discussions; namely, that
 we shall *soon know who is right*
and who is wrong. There you
 are, all together, both Houses,
 both parties, all the “collective
 wisdom,” all unanimous in your
 measure; and here am I to assert
 that you can never carry the mea-
 sure into full effect, and still pay
 the interest of the debt in full.

I must not conclude, and, in-
 deed, I ought not to go any far-
 ther, without observing that you
 (though very late in the day)
 seem to be of my opinion in this
 respect. You jostle about, and
 endeavour to avoid, as much as
 possible, the appearance of coming
 to *my shop*; but you do come
 to it; you say that an “*equi-*
table adjustment” is wanted; you
 want an adjustment of contracts,
 grounded upon the changes of the
 value of the money: you, in short,
 though with a devilish wry face,
 come to my shop and swallow my
 dose: you hold up the empty glass
 to the spectators, who appear to
 have stared most surprisingly;
 but not a man of whom appears
 to have had the pluck to utter a
 single breath against the doctor,
 the patient, or the dose. The me-
 morable words, as reported to us

by the Morning Chronicle, were as follows:—"The great object to be gained for the relief of the country was, that all its burdens should be reduced in proportion to the increased value of the currency. The distresses of the country resulted from the existing contracts having been made during high prices, while the parties were called upon to fulfil them at the standard of low prices. *An equitable adjustment of contracts was that which alone could fully relieve the country. He admitted that the difficulty of carrying such a measure into effect would be great; but it was nonsense to deny that it was desirable.*"

That was well said: in none of your excellent speeches against the tyrannical boroughmongers, the fraudulent seat-sellers, the feeders on corruption, bribery, and perjury, did you ever say any thing better than that. But there was a great deal more which you ought to have said. While you were swallowing the dose, the healing dose to which you must all come at last, you forgot (a thing which you are very apt to forget by-the-bye) that it was your duty to tell your audience where you got the dose from; and, if you really were convinced that it possessed the healing qualities that you asserted it to possess, it was your duty to avenge the Doctor on DADDY COKE, on SUFFIELD, on KNATCHBULL, on CALCRAFT, on JOHN SMITH, on JOHN MARTIN, and, generally, on the whole of the tribe by whom his doses have been so decried and abused. It was your duty also, I think, to explain to Mr. PROSPERITY ROBINSON, what was meant by an EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENT,

of which he said he could make neither head nor tail. You will all find the dose at full measure and clear as claret, in NORFOLK PETITION, which lies on the table of the house, there to be finally taken into consideration and acted upon, and that, too, with the concurrence of that very DADDY COKE who presented it and abused it just now about four years ago.

You see, or affect to see, great difficulty of carrying such a measure into effect. Fox-hunting and aristocrat-seeking must have obliterated a great deal from your memory. Seventeen years ago, or thereabouts, I proved to you, as clearly as any thing was ever proved to mortal man, that one single year's collection of the income tax was attended with infinitely more difficulty and with ten thousand times as much personal inconvenience and vexation, as this adjustment of contracts would be, beginning at the million-holding fundholder and going down to the annuitant of forty shillings a year. Those cursed dogs and their equally noisy and not half so intelligent two-legged companions in the chase, must have wholly driven out of your head that which I am sure was once fixed there as firmly as it ever was in mine. Come to me, Sir Francis Burdett: I'll set you down in the very same chair in which you sat down before, though *not in the same building*. It will not take above five minutes to convince you that there is now, as there was then, no difficulty, no obstacle, except those, which are raised and interposed by those and those only who live upon the tithes, the taxes, and the paper monopolies.

But, you have, while you ap-

appear to have lost your recollection as to these matters, contracted a twist, a sort of Scotch crotchet, which more than overbalances the good sense which you appear to retain upon the subject. You see great difficulty in carrying an equitable adjustment into effect; and, yet, you see that Corn Bills, and every thing else will be useless in preserving the estates, if the debt is to be paid in gold and in full. Therefore you fly back for refuge to the paper; and, your opinion clearly is that we ought to go back to the paper system; that is to say, to bank restriction and legal tender. In the former part of your speech you say, that as long as the former system (meaning the bank restriction system) remained, "all the interests of the country flourished," and that it is your opinion, that, "*if the currency had not been altered, there would have been no agricultural distress.*" You must, therefore, have been sorry at the passing of PEELE'S BILL; but be it observed, however, that you never said a word in opposition to that bill. If any doubt as to your meaning could remain, with regard to your meaning, we have another passage, at the close of this speech, which would effectually remove that doubt:—"He thought it unlikely that corn would ever rise to such a price as to give practical effect to the proposed Resolutions. It was true, it might do so through a famine; but that, instead of benefit, would only inflict injury on the agriculturist. He believed that no country ever had two such distressing measures imposed upon it at once

"as this, when the Corn Laws and the Bullion Act were both put into operation, each of them deeply affecting the vital interests of the country. An essential object with every Government should be, to prevent the common measure of value from being exposed to any fluctuations or alterations. If, instead of restoring the gold standard, the Government of this country had adhered to the system of currency as it existed at the close of the war, applying such remedies as the case of Scotland proved would have been sufficient to remove the evils belonging to it; this country, instead of struggling with difficulty and distress, might have been in a state of unvalued and unexampled prosperity." (Cheers.)

Here we have you asserting, that if we had adhered to the currency as it was at the close of the war, we should have never known distress; so that if we had adhered to the vile and fraudulent system of legal tender, to a banishment of the king's coin, and to the placing of the chief prerogative of the king in the hands of a set of note makers and discounters of bills, we should have been the happiest people on earth! And, I hear this, do I, from one of that most liberal, most virtuous and most respectable class to which it is an honour to belong! God preserve my throat from ratsbane, halters, and pen-knives; but I declare to God that I would sooner end my days even as CASTLEREAGH did than entertain an opinion like this; and, the good of it is, that you yourself *really do not entertain it.* You have a parcel of fellows re-

peating everlastingly in your ears that a "*paper-money is necessary to a great commercial nation*;" that, as the nation prospered so long with a paper-money it would doubtless prosper with a paper-money again. These stupid hounikins do not reflect; they are incapable, most likely, of reflecting, and you are charmed to be saved the trouble of doing it: you, therefore, do not reflect upon *two things*; namely, that the *prosperity*, as it is called, which the nation enjoyed, or, rather, appeared to enjoy, in the days of *bank-restriction*, was not "*prosperity*," but a *contracting of debt*; that it was like the effect of mortgaging upon a mortgager, enabling him to live gaily and expensively for the present, but laying in for him a store of embarrassment and poverty for the future. Another thing on which you do not reflect is, the *consequence* of returning to bank-restriction, that being clearly what you mean. The very first consequence would be a falling of the English funds twenty per cent below the French, and perhaps a great deal more. Two prices would follow in a very short time, and, to get *real* money enough to feed the common soldiers and common sailors, would require laws very little short of the sanguinary code of ROBESPIERRE. No man would give his gold to a taxgatherer if *bank notes* were a *legal tender*; and, legal tender they must be, or else they would not circulate at all.

It is impossible to escape this rock, except by going boldly on the rock of low prices, as the Government is now doing. There is no passage, no channel, no round-

about way to escape one or the other of these rocks. The lowering of the standard, which Mr. WESTERN has recommended, would only add to the evils of either of the other two. For, it would be an open and barefaced violation of all contracts; and even with that, it would not answer the purpose which its inventors think it would answer. The gold would still leave the country, though a sovereign should be reduced to the diameter of a pea.

The truth is, I verily believe, that you must see, that there is *no remedy except mine*; but that your aristocratical and whiskered companions have so be-bothered you, and so terrified you with the idea of the danger of going back to the Radicals again, that you are, at last, afraid or ashamed to say what you think. I believe, most firmly, that a very large part of the landowners see the matter in its true light; but, that they are ready to knaw their own flesh, when they also see, that it is utterly impossible for them to adopt any measure that will save them, without having the mortification of hearing every man in the nation say, "THAT MEASURE IS COBBETT'S."

There is, however, another obstacle to their acting upon those principles, and indeed upon that plan, suggested to the House of Commons in the NORFOLK PETITION. Norfolk Petition recommends an equitable adjustment of contracts; and, who but such men as DADDY COKE, SUFFIELD, KNATCHBULL, and the like, ever abused a proposal to do that which is *equitable*. But, Norfolk Petition prays for SOMETHING MORE; and it is this *something*

more, that you "liberal, virtuous and respectable" creatures, exceedingly dislike. And, this brings me to the stating of that important **WHY**, which I mentioned in my Register of last week, and which I mentioned again at the outset of this letter. It is so manifest, that the taxes are the cause of all the distress; it is so manifest, that the landlords must lose their estates, unless they get high prices wherewith to get these taxes; these things are so manifest; it is so clear to every man of sense, that even you who are a sort of *leviathan*, or, at least, a very stout *grampus*, must become a sprat, in a very few years, unless you have higher prices or *lower* taxes, that no one can be surprised that you should wish for one or the other. No man ever yet was stripped of his very garments by his own consent; and therefore, to blame you or any of the landlords for wishing to keep your estates, is censure absolutely against nature.

But, though no one can blame you, for wishing to preserve your estates, and of course for adopting the means necessary to preserve them, every man in the community has a right, when the means of doing this are various; when some of these means are injurious to the country at large, and some of them not injurious if not beneficial: in that case, every man in the community has a right to censure you, if, in the means which you choose to preserve yourselves, you do injury to the people at large. Now, this is precisely the case, in the present instance. There are two ways of preserving the estates: by a **CORN BILL** or **TAX** on **BREAD**;

and, by a **LOWERING** of **ALL THE TAXES**. Men ask, therefore, why it is, that the landlords do not choose the latter instead of the former, when, in the latter case, all the people would be applauding their conduct; while, in the former case, in the bread-taxing case, they are sure to have the whole body of the people against them. Landlords, like other men, do not court hatred and contempt. They will, indeed, very frequently set both at defiance; but they do not wish to have them; they are not things that they voluntarily seek after; and, therefore, as a reduction of the taxes to what they used to be before the late wars, would most effectually preserve their estates, and would most wonderfully delight the great body of the people at the same time, we again and again ask, why do they not prefer to take off the taxes? The answer is, **THAT THEY THEMSELVES AND THEIR RELATIONS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, AND ALL BELONGING TO THEM, ARE VERY GREAT SHARERS IN THE RECEIPT OF THOSE TAXES.**

Look into the place list, the pension list, the sinecure list, the list of grantees, the late ambassador list, the colonial lists, the law lists, the dead weight list, the live soldier list, the navy list; look into these; see who have all the great prizes; see who it is, that receive the large sums; inquire who they all belong to; and you will find, that nineteen-twentieths of them are landowners or landowners' connexions. But, there is the **CHURCH** at the back of all this, with its bishoprics, its

deaneries, its prebendaries, its canons, its immensely rich livings, and its enormous fees; the whole of this Church, all its immense property and revenue, you know, Sir, as well as I know, belongs to the landowners. And, if you remind me that the Church revenue, consisting, as it principally does, of rents, is, like other rents, affected by the taxes, and that the receivers of this revenue must, therefore, like the landowners, naturally wish for a reduction of the taxes: if you remind me of this, I answer, that if you will look into the *Norfolk Petition*, you will there see a short prayer, *for appropriating to the payment of the fundholders a considerable part of this Church property!* Ah! sayest thou so! This, in short, is the whole history and mystery of the important **WHY**. Reduce the taxes and you must reduce the interest of the Debt; but, mark me well, Sir; pray mark me well, and whisper it with solemn tone in the ears of your aristocratic cronies; that three hundred thousand families of fundholders; that a hundred thousand families, perhaps, of saving-banks-people, are not to be ruined, and that a million of people in and about this *Wen*, are not to be flung out of the means of satisfying their hunger and their thirst while the landowners keep all that they have got, and while they continue to receive all that they are now receiving through the various channels of places, pensions, sinecures, grants, dead weight, army, navy and church. They are not to keep all this, while millions are plunged into ruin. An *equitable adjustment*, therefore, must necessarily in-

clude a taking away of these things from the landowners; there can be no equity in any other species of adjustment; and therefore it is, Sir, that the landowners dread an equitable adjustment, as a murderer dreads the sight of the murdered man's ghost. Therefore it is that they talk of *stripping the coats off their backs* rather than reduce the interest of the debt. Various circumstances have tended to make them bold, and regardless of public opinion. They are foolish enough, too, in general, as is usual with men born to power and wealth; but they are not foolish enough to believe, that they can keep all they have got and continue to get as they have hitherto gotten, while a million of creatures shall be actually raving with hunger, in this metropolis alone. The fundholders may be justly called upon for a reduction of their interest; but, not one single farthing can be deducted from them, till the landowners give up a far greater part of what they receive out of the taxes. This is "*equitable adjustment*," which Mr. ROBINSON may now understand, if he did not understand before. Thus is the great and important **WHY** explained; and thus I close this Letter.

WM. COBBETT.

P. S. I here below insert my Petition, above mentioned, sent from Long Island. I read it, or rather I looked into it, for the purpose of seeing how you had stolen the illustration about the Winchester bushel. I have numbered the paragraphs of the Petition, and the reader will find your illustration, only stated a little better than you have stated yours,

in paragraph 23. The Petition was written ten years ago, come next November; and yet, in paragraph 30, you will find a prayer for an "*equitable adjustment of contracts*," and foretelling the fatal consequences of deferring such *adjustment* till it was too late. You, who seemed to have become the most gentle and indulgent creature in the world, say the Ministers *meant well* in their PEEL'S-BILL affair. CANNING, in one of his poems, very justly ridicules the candid cant, which ascribes *bad actions* to *good intentions*. But, Sir, read this Petition once more; and, which is of a great deal more importance, let those who were mere boys now read it; and let these boys who have become men say, whether all the true principles are not here laid down, whether all the dangers are not here anticipated, whether all the sufferings of the country at this moment, would not have been avoided if the Parliament had listened to this petition, which I now send forth, to receive those congratulations which are due to it, in consequence of the fulfilment of all its predictions by the melancholy experience of the years since it was written.

MR. COBBETT'S PETITION.

*To the Honourable the Commons
of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Ireland, in
Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of William Cobbett, of Botley, in the County of Hants, now residing at North Hampstead, in the State of New York, this 20th day of November, 1817,

Humbly sheweth,

1. That your Petitioner, always tremblingly alive to those feelings of respect, reverence and awe, which the character and conduct of your Honourable House are so well calculated to excite and perpetuate in the breasts of all mankind, could not, though thereunto urged by a sense of imperious duty, have been induced thus to venture to beseech even one moment's attention from your Honourable House, had he not been sustained by reflecting on the well-known indulgent and benign deportment of your Honourable House towards all his Majesty's subjects, and more especially towards those who approach you with their petitions.

2. Your Petitioner, though living in safety and happiness; though in no danger of arbitrary arrests; though in no danger of changing his house for a dungeon and his own clothes for a criminal's garb; though surrounded by his friends who can lay their heads on their pillows unhaunted by the apprehension of seeing him no more; though there is no fiscal extortioner to wrest from him his money, and no spy to sell his blood: though thus happily situated, under the protection of a Government, founded on the Common Law of England, and carried on by men, amongst whom bribery, corruption, vote-selling and seat-selling, are not only not as notorious as the sun at noon day, but are wholly unknown and almost unintelligible in point of meaning; though, as the natural consequence of this just and wise Government, your humble Petitioner sees around him no starvation, no beggary, and scarcely

hears he of any of those acts which the law regards as crimes ; though his eyes are never shocked by those erections, exhibitions and circumstances inseparable from the ignominious exit of malefactors, and though his ears are never annoyed and his heart wounded by the cries of fatherless children and the widows of men, who have sought shelter from the shame of pecuniary ruin in death inflicted by their own hands ; though, in short, your Petitioner is in the midst of a state of things, where all is order, content, peace and good will, yet the calamities of his native country are ever present to his mind, and that true and faithful allegiance which he bears to his lawful king, together with the unalterable attachment which he bears to his country, impel him to submit to your Honourable House his opinions as to the causes of those calamities and his prayer as to the remedy to be adopted, all which, however, he does with sentiments of deference the most complete and of humility the most profound.

3. Powerful as are the motives, by which your Petitioner is actuated, the contemplation of the dignified character and of the renowned wisdom of your Honourable House produces in his mind so complete a conviction of his utter insignificance, that it would be altogether impossible for him to support himself under the thought of becoming an object of the displeasure or contempt of your Honourable House, a thought, however, which is, happily for him, wholly removed from his mind by that great indulgence, that kind condescension, that extreme candour, that charitableness of interpretation, that scorn to

listen to abuse of persons who have no power to answer, that magnanimous disdain of taking advantage of involuntary error, that fairness in representing, that abhorrence of foul play, and that more-than-maternal tenderness for a petitioning people, which have, as the nation and the world so well know, invariably marked the proceedings of your Honourable House.

4. Emboldened by reflecting on these facts, not less important to him than they are notorious throughout the world, your Petitioner, though still filled with a sense of his insufficiency for the performance of so arduous a duty, will, with all humility, proceed to submit to your Honourable House his opinions as to the principal causes of the calamities, under which his native country is now suffering, calamities which have already swept away whole classes of the community, and which, if not speedily arrested in their course, appear to your Petitioner likely to produce a total dissolution of society.

5. In pursuance of this object your Petitioner humbly begs to be permitted to state to your Honourable House, that he has seen, in documents of high authority, but to which documents, from his profound respect for the sacred privileges of Parliament, he refrains from directly referring ; in these documents your humble Petitioner has seen, that the calamities of the nation have, in great part, at least, been traced back to the *Poor-Laws*, operating, as here laid down, so as to create a *redundant population*, a population exceeding a proportionate exertion of labour and production of food.

6. Your Petitioner most humbly beseeches your Honourable House to permit him to express his surprise, that this doctrine should have ventured to show its face, while the Statute Book of your Honourable House proves, that the Poor-Laws have existed nearly three hundred years, and while the facts are undeniable, that, during those three hundred years the nation has, for a long space of time, enjoyed the highest degree of prosperity, and that, until now, a redundant population has never been regarded as amongst the effects of that now reprobated code; and, if your Petitioner be indulged by your Honourable House in a permission to express his surprise as to this novelty, he fears not that your Honourable House will refuse to permit him to express his astonishment, and, if he may presume, in your presence, to exercise such a feeling, even his indignation, at the doctrine of an augmented and augmenting population being an *evil*, when it is well known, that the records of your Honourable House contain volumes upon volumes of details, collected and arranged at great expense, to establish the fact of a greatly augmented and augmenting population, as an incontestible proof of greatly augmented and augmenting national prosperity, wealth and power.

7. With not less surprise, and with scarcely less indignation, can your Petitioner hear the calamities of the country ascribed to a surplus of mouths exceeding the quantity of the produce of the exertion of labour, when not only is your Petitioner sure that your Honourable House is well aware, that the food produced by the la-

bour of one labourer is, on an average, more than sufficient to sustain a hundred persons, but when the Statute-Book and other Records of your Honourable House, of not more than twenty months' standing, prove to the world, that your Honourable House imputed all the distresses of the country to a superabundant quantity, not of mouths, but of food; and that, upon this very ground, clearly and formally expressed, in several solemn Reports, your Honourable House proceeded to pass, and actually did pass, and now keep in force, a law, the real as well as the avowed object of which was to raise the price, by diminishing the quantity of human food.

8. Impotent as is your Petitioner, feeble as is his voice, insignificant as he knows his means to be, he, nevertheless, humbly begs to be allowed to express his hope, that your Honourable House will not disdain and treat with scorn the jealousy which he feels for the consistency, nay, for the common sense of your Honourable House, at which qualities in your Honourable House these new doctrines appear to your humble Petitioner to be aiming a mortal blow; for, though your Petitioner is too well aware that the wisdom of your Honourable House is invulnerable to all sorts of assault, yet the pride with which, as an Englishman, he must necessarily contemplate the spotless character of your Honourable House, and the zeal which he feels for your renown, urge him to resent, with all the hostile feelings of his heart, the affront offered to your Honourable House, in the formal and authoritative promulgation of doctrines directly at war with the

records and acts of your Honourable House.

9. Were it the misfortune of your humble Petitioner to be addressing himself to an assembly ignorant of such subjects from the nature of its component parts, or rendered such by a disregard of every thing not connected with the gratification of a desire to amass private wealth, by base and corrupt means; were your humble Petitioner addressing himself to an assembly of this low and disgraceful description, he should think it necessary to endeavour to prove the absolute impossibility of the Poor-Laws and of a Surplus of Mouths having produced the calamities under contemplation; but, having the good fortune to be addressing himself to your Honourable House, not less famed for your profound knowledge of all the various branches of political science than for your extreme disinterestedness and matchless purity, he dares not to seem to suppose such proof to be necessary, more especially as all the propositions of the innovators aluded to stand decidedly negatived in the Reports, the Resolutions, and in the venerated Acts, of your Honourable House; and, therefore, your Petitioner will, without longer trespassing on the great indulgence of your Honourable House, proceed, though with inexpressible deference and humility, to submit to your Honourable House a brief exposition of what he deems to have been, and to be, the real immediate causes of the nation's calamities, of which calamities your humble Petitioner and his family bear their full proportionate burthen.

10. Your Petitioner is confident

that your Honourable House will not withhold your candid and ready acquiescence from the following undeniable propositions; to wit: that the Poor-Laws continued in operation, from their first enactment, two hundred and seventy years, without producing, and without having imputed to them, any national calamity;—that, in all ages, there have been alternately times of scarcity and times of plenty, times of high price and times of low price, and that never, until now, a *want of employment* accompanied adverse seasons any more than favourable seasons;—that it is manifest, that the want of employment, which is the great symptom of the present national disease, and which is altogether peculiar to the present times, has not arisen from bad seasons, or high prices of food, it being notorious, that it began to be severely experienced in 1814, and has continued to increase, under all circumstances of good seasons as well as of bad seasons, and of low prices as well as of high prices;—that, in 1815, the advocates for the Corn Bill all proceeded upon the principle, taken by them for granted, that the *low price* of farm produce was the cause of the want of employment and of the national distress;—that the Board of Agriculture, and that a Committee of your Honourable House, made reports containing an assertion of this principle;—that the numerous Reports made to the Board of Agriculture to prove, that want of employment, a great increase of pauperism, and wide ruin amongst farmers and traders, had taken place along with a great reduction in the price of food;—that it was

then held, by all those who sought the enactment of a Corn Bill, that high prices were necessary in order to remove the *prevalent want of employment*, and in order to diminish pauperism and to prevent the total ruin of landlords, farmers, and traders;—and that, it was upon the ground of these principles and of the evidence produced in support of their truth, that your Honourable House passed the Corn Bill, the real as well as the declared object of which was to raise and keep up the price of the produce of the land.

11. To these propositions, which are altogether undeniable, your Petitioner begs leave to add some others, to the truth of which he also believes your Honourable House will not hastily refuse your assent; to wit: that, though it be possible, that the case may in nature occur, that national calamity may arise from a superabundance of population, such calamity can never arise from this cause, while the already enclosed lands of the country are imperfectly cultivated;—that the already enclosed lands of the kingdom admit of a great quantity of additional labour being profitably employed upon them;—that this proposition has been maintained in several Reports sanctioned by your Honourable House;—and that, therefore, it is an obvious conclusion, that it is not the want of materials whereon to employ labour, but the want of means to pay for that labour, from which the now-deeply-felt want of employment has arisen.

12. That this want of employment, together with all the dreadful calamities, of which it is

only one characteristic, should have arisen from a *sudden transition from war to peace*, is in such direct hostility to the *experience* of the world, as well as to the dictates of reason, that your Petitioner is sure that the wisdom of your Honourable House will treat with scorn the advancing of a doctrine so preposterous;—that the transitions from war to peace, being changes from one state to another, which states are directly opposite in their natures, and can by no possibility co-exist in any degree, must *always be sudden*;—that changes of this sort have taken place in all the civilized nations in the world, a great number of times, and that never, until now, has it happened, that such a change has produced great and general national calamity;—that a transition from war to peace has, in all former cases, if accompanied by success, or by no loss of dominion, in war, invariably been attended by a return, or an increase, of national prosperity and happiness;—that, from the nature of things this must be, seeing that peace naturally restores to productive labour the enjoyment of a large part of that which war requires to be given to unproductive labour, seeing that peace naturally renders certain many things which war keeps in a state of uncertainty, and seeing that a great mass of individual bodily and mental suffering is removed by a change from war to peace, on all which and numerous other grounds, all mankind speak of the *calamities of war* and the *blessings of peace* as they speak of the *torments of hell* and the *enjoyments of heaven*.

13. That, besides what has, in

the above propositions, been, by your Petitioner, most humbly submitted to the wisdom of your Honourable House, he begs permission to add, that even the experience of the present case affords ample ground for asserting, that a transition from war to peace has not been the cause of the nation's distresses and calamities, in proof of which your Petitioner has only to remind your Honourable House, that the want of employment and all the other symptoms of national pressure, began to assume their present character in the autumn of the year 1813, and that the progress of the calamity through war and through peace, through high prices and through low prices, through plenty and through scarcity of food, has been undeviating from that time to this, though, at particular periods, its pace has been rendered quicker or slower, by the adventitious circumstances of seasons or of foreign commerce.

14. In the face of these undeniable propositions, these notorious facts; in the face of the experience of all civilized nations in all ages; in the face of reason and of nature: in the face of these, no one will, your Petitioner would fain hope, have the hardihood to insult your Honourable House, by persevering in imputing the calamities of the nation to causes so perfectly imaginary, and, if they were real, so entirely inadequate to the producing of such tremendous effects.

15. That no effect can proceed from an inadequate cause, is a proposition not necessary to be stated to your Honourable House, and, it is not less obvious, that the cause of great and general na-

tional calamity, bordering on an extermination of the people, must be not only powerful in its nature, but all-searching in the objects of its operation and influence: in short, your Petitioner scruples not to express his conviction, that when your Honourable House shall deign to turn your great contemplative powers to the *amount of the taxes* and the operation of the *paper-money system*, you will seek no farther for a cause of the calamities of the country, and that the *remedy* will not long remain hidden from your sight.

16. It is so well known, it must be so obvious to common sense, that the welfare of every community must depend on productive labour receiving just remuneration; that labour is property, and that not to pay for it when received, or to take from it its produce, is to destroy, or set at nought, the vital principles of property; that to take from those who labour and give to those who do not labour, is to put a band round the arms and prevent the blood from flowing into the hands, while the hands, thus benumbed, are called upon to produce food for the body; that in whatever degree a man *pays* without receiving *to his own use the worth in return*, he is *the poorer*; that what a man pays in taxes has no channel whereby to return to him other than the channels by which he may expect the return of money lost by him at the gaming-table or on the highway: these things are so well known, they are truths so obvious, that your Petitioner begs your Honourable House to be assured, that he states them merely to show his great

anxiety to keep clear of all conclusions, absurd in themselves, or in anywise offensive to your Honourable House, without whose kind indulgence he is but too conscious that he is less than nothing.

17. Deeply penetrated with this sense of his own weakness, but feeling strong in his reliance on the cherishing countenance of your Honourable House, your humble Petitioner proceeds to express his conviction, that, as in whatever degree a man pays without receiving to his own use the worth in return he must in that degree be poor, it inevitably follows, that, in whatever degree the great mass of the people pay without receiving to their use the worth in return, they must also be the poorer; and he begs leave to think, that from these premises it again inevitably follows, that taxes, in proportion to their amount, produce straightened means in some of the classes of society, poverty in other classes, actual want of a sufficiency of food and raiment in a third, and extreme misery bordering on starvation and accompanied with numerous crimes, and occasional madness, and death, in the lowest and most numerous class of all; whence it has come to pass in our unhappy country, that Taxes, Public Debts, Standing Armies, Military Staffs and Colleges, Lists of Placemen and Placemen and Pensioners, Police Establishments, Penal Laws, Poor-houses, Jails, and new modes and means of Hanging and Transporting, have all gone on increasing together.

18. The thought of appearing to prefer, in any respect, any country in the world before his own country, would be too painful for

your Petitioner to endure, and he trusts that your Honourable House, in your well-known justice, will not suppose him to entertain such a thought, merely because he states to your Honourable House, that, in the country, which now affords him protection against dungeons and dealers in human blood, there are few taxes, and those in amount so insignificant as for their very existence to be unknown to the far greater part of the people; and, that the consequences are, that instances of misery and of crimes are so rare as to be a subject of wonder; that ease, happiness and content everywhere abound; and that an increase of population is regarded as a blessing and not as a curse.

19. Manifest, however, as your Petitioner humbly presumes your Honourable House will perceive it to be, that taxes, in proportion to their amount, must necessarily occasion poverty and all the evils attendant on poverty, and that the amount of the taxes in the kingdom is calculated to produce such effects in an unprecedented degree, yet he ventures, under the indulgence of your Honourable House, to express his conviction, that this cause of evil has received great additional and most mischievous force from the co-operation of a *paper-money*, forced into circulation and acceptance by divers artful and unjust contrivances, and *changeable in its value* at the pleasure of those by whom it has been made, issued and managed.

20. Your Petitioner fears not to state, that, if your Honourable House will be pleased to refer to the history of the calamities and convulsions, which have taken place in civilized states, during

the last hundred and twenty years, you will find, that one of the most powerful of the causes has been a false, or fictitious money, under the denomination of Bills, Notes, Assignats, and others, and always composed of Paper, bearing on it a promise to pay such or such sums to the bearer or possessor of such paper. In France, many years ago, a scheme of this description spread ruin far and wide, and, of late years, it has actually produced, by its co-operation with heavy and vexatious taxes, two distinct and sanguinary revolutions. In some of those colonies of North America, which are now the United States, a colonial paper-money, introduced more than sixty years ago, spread ruin and beggary amongst a people, who appeared to be so happily situated as to have no want ungratified. In the States of Austria, in Denmark, in Sweden, and in every other country, where such a system of fiction has prevailed, ruin and misery have always, sooner or later, been its fruits, of which fruits the United States themselves have not, as your Petitioner will hereafter beg leave to be permitted to show, wholly escaped the bitter taste.

21. The chief reason of this universally evil effect of such fictions is not less evident than the effect itself is notorious. Money being the universal standard, by comparison with which the value of all things bought and sold is ascertained; or, being the sign, which represents the value of all things which men buy, sell, or with regard to which they enter into contracts of loan, or otherwise, in a pecuniary way; such being the character of, or the office per-

formed by, money, and money being inseparable from the daily concerns of every man from the Prince to the Ploughman, it is obvious, that when money, when this standard of value, is *changeable*, whether at pleasure or from accident, and especially if the changes be sudden as to time and great in degree, a real violation of contracts, a transfer of property unjustly from one to another and ruin, misery and confusion must ensue.

22. It is out of these just notions of the sacredness of money, as a standard of value and as the vital principle of contracts, that the law has arisen which considers to be *treason* the counterfeiting of the coin of the realm, such act of counterfeiting being to strike at the very root of society itself; and, as your Petitioner humbly presumes to believe, *counterfeiting* is neither more nor less than a *changing of the value of money*, an operation, which, when it takes place partially and in a small degree, produces injuries in a similar extent; but, when such changing of the standard of value is *general*, *sudden*, and, with regard to the community, as *secretly performed* as the works of the traitorous coiner, then it becomes a scourge more mortal than the pestilence that walketh by day and the arrow that flieth by night.

23. If your humble Petitioner were addressing himself to a body less enlightened than your Honourable House; if he had the misfortune to have to offer his opinions and prayers to men so profoundly ignorant of all the principles of political economy as to hope to cure the national calamities by voluntary contributions, or by setting

labourers to dig holes one day and to fill them up the next ; if he had the mortification to be addressing his prayers to men of this shallow and vulgar-minded description, he might think it necessary to illustrate his representations by supposing the number of cubic inches of the Winchester bushel, or the number of ounces of the pound weight, or the number of longitudinal inches of the foot measure, to be, all of a sudden, changed in a great degree, and without any previous notice to the public ; and he is certain that even the most stupid assembly that ever disgraced the forms of legislation would perceive, that such changes would cause a real violation of innumerable contracts, and that distress and ruin to innumerable persons must inevitably follow ; but, having the unspeakable felicity to be addressing himself to your Honourable House, whose fame for profundity is surpassed only by your fame for candour and purity, your Petitioner has no need to resort to illustrations of any kind, and, therefore, hastened on by the fear of abusing the well-known indulgence of your Honourable House, he proceeds to trace to your Honourable House the progress of this unrelenting scourge, called Paper-Money.

24. In the early stages of its existence this mortal enemy of human happiness and freedom, was, like the first fibres of the cancer, felt only in occasional twitches ; but, as it advanced in bulk, its effects became more and more regularly and severely felt, till, at last, it has produced all the deadly effects now before our eyes. For a long series of years its visible effects

were a regular increase of gambling, of fraud, and of all the vices engendered by a dependence on trick rather than on industry and talent ; and its visible effects were a gradual changing of the real property of the country from the hands of the ancient owners into the hands of the dealers in Paper-Money, a gradual undermining of that natural magistracy which is ever the best bond of society, a consequent gradual hardening of the penal laws, and finally a gradually produced dislocation of all the joints and ligaments which held together without grudging and without violence all the orders of that admirable community that formed the people of England. As the powers of Paper-Money increased real property naturally grew into larger parcels, small farms became gradually less numerous, till, at last, they became wholly extinguished, while their industrious and virtuous cultivators sunk down into a state of labourers, and while the labourers, seeing no hope of ever acquiring any share of the profits of their labour, became less and less desirous of abstaining from demands on the parish rates.

25. Such, as your Honourable House must have perceived, were amongst the effects of this baleful system of Paper-Money previous to the year 1797, when it assumed a bolder and more desperate character ; for, at that period, the makers and issuers of this fictitious representative of value, who had amassed to themselves, in exchange for their paper, large portions of the real wealth of the nation, under promises to exchange the paper into

gold at the pleasure of the holder, did, all of a sudden, and by an act unparalleled in its extent as well as in its wickedness, fulfil to the very letter the predictions of that Great Political Writer, who had foretold, only a year before, that such would be their conduct. Thence forward these makers and issuers poured forth their fictitious money so as to enhance prices to an astonishing degree, and, when they had given their paper in exchange for men's real property, for their estates in fee, or, more generally, in exchange for mortgages or other securities, they suddenly, and without any previous notice, so diminished the quantity of their paper in circulation as to lower prices one half in nominal amount, to lower the nominal value of real property, of stock in trade and of labour; and they thus, by a changing of the standard of value at their own arbitrary will, acquired a legal demand upon all borrowers to double the real amount of the sums lent.

26. When your Honourable House reflects, that it is in the class of *borrowers* that you see all the greatest motives to exertion, all the most active and most enterprising part of the persons engaged in agriculture, trade, manufactures, and commerce; when your Honourable House reflects on this circumstance, and sees clearly, as your Petitioner humbly presumes you will, the mortal blow that this numerous and active part of the community must have received from this arbitrary change in the standard of value, he is quite sure that your Honourable House will need seek no farther for the cause of a want

of employment and great national misery; and yet, in this sweeping violation of all private contracts; in this ruinous oppression of private borrowers, in this stab into the heart of individual industry, enterprise and hope, your Petitioner is convinced that your Honourable House will permit him to say, that there is seen a part only of the cruel effects of this arbitrary changing of the standard of value; for, it must be manifest to your Honourable House, that, if the private borrower must inevitably be ruined by this fraudulent operation, the bare possibility of which never could have entered his mind at the time of receiving the loan, the whole nation, except the lenders to the public and except those persons who derived emolument from the taxes, must also be ruined by the same operation, by which, in fact, the sums required in taxes, great as those sums were, were doubled in real amount.

27. Here then, and, as your Petitioner presumes humbly to express his belief, here only, is the real immediate cause of the present frightful calamities of the nation; for, when your Honourable House reflects on the numerousness of the class of borrowers, on the great portion of the productive labour of the country which this class sets and keeps in motion; when you reflect on the vast proportion of the product of labour which the taxes take away from those who labour and convey to those who do not labour; when you reflect that the total ruin of many borrowers, the straightened means of others, and the discouragement of all, must necessarily cause the money raised in taxes

and paid to the lenders to be retained in a state of comparative inactivity, and, in numerous instances, transferred in loans public and private and in other investments to foreign countries; when your Honourable House reflects on these circumstances, your Petitioner is sure that your Honourable House will here find the real immediate cause of the nation's calamities, and that all the new notions of the injurious effect of the Poor-Laws, of a Surplus-Population, and of a Sudden Transition from War to Peace, will, at once, vanish, leaving behind them nothing but amazement at the monstrosity of their folly.

28. Could it be possible, however, for a doubt still to remain in the mind of your Honourable House, the experience of the United States of America must, as your Petitioner confidently believes, wholly remove that doubt; for, though the whole of the principal of the Public Debt in this country does not exceed in amount the annual interest of the debt with which our country is unhappily burthened; though the taxes here be so light as for their very existence to be absolutely unknown to the great mass of the community; yet, *from a sudden diminution of the quantity of Paper-Money* which had been in circulation previously to 1815, ruin and misery were spread far and wide over all the commercial part of the community, a consequent stagnation of trade ensued, and, for the first time in the history of the country, a want of employment and pauperism and soup-shops began to rear their hideous heads, and to produce what in their very nature they must pro-

duce, idleness, mendicity, and crimes. A wise and economical system of Government, an absence of standing armies, a reliance on the hearty good will of the people for the defence and due execution of the laws, a return, in peace, to all the habits and diminished expenses of peace, will, it is hoped, wholly eradicate the evils produced by the Paper-Money, and which evils had been confined to the commercial towns and their immediate environs; but, if a country, situated as to pecuniary matters, and governed, as the United States are, could feel sensibly a blow from a sudden changing of the standard of value; if a country, in which there is scarcely any such thing as a lease of lands, where mortgages are comparatively unknown, and where borrowing for purposes of agriculture and trade in general is carried to so trifling an extent; if, in such a country, the changing of the standard of value could be felt as a blow at its prosperity, and could produce, even in the smallest degree, *a want of employment*, while the richest of land is calling for cultivators, your Honourable House will not, your petitioner is certain, entertain any doubt that a cause, similar in its nature but a thousand-fold greater in degree, has, as it necessarily must have, produced proportionate calamities in England.

29. Therefore, as your humble Petitioner has the unutterable happiness to be confident that he shall be honoured with the concurrence of your Honourable House as to the great immediate cause of the nation's manifold sufferings, so is he not less confident, that, in seeking for a remedy, your

Honourable House will reject, as the vision of weak-minded dreamers, any project for altering the Poor-Laws, and that you will treat with ineffable contempt and scorn all the schemes for collecting the savings of a starving people, for preventing the labouring classes from marrying, and for causing holes to be dug one day and filled up the next; but, that, following the dictates of your own instinctive energy and wisdom, you will put an end to the evil by removing the cause; and that, as that cause manifestly is the taxes which drain away from productive labour so large a portion of its fruits to be, as above stated, conveyed, by the hands of the lenders of Paper-Money, into unproductive or foreign depositories, you will largely reduce the proportion of the money so raised and so conveyed away.

30. Therefore, your Petitioner, full of confidence in the well-known justice of your Honourable House, and fearing that he may already have trespassed beyond the bounds even of that great patience and indulgence which are traits so prominent in the now-well-established character of your Honourable House, proceeds, with all humility, distinctly to pray, that your Honourable House will be pleased, by measures, which, to your great wisdom may seem meet, to cause the interest of the Public Debt to be reduced; to cause all salaries, pensions and pay of every description proceeding from the public money to be reduced; to cause a revision of contracts between lenders and borrowers and letters and renters: so that the nation at large and that individuals in their several particular

cases, may receive from the hands of your Honourable House protection from that injustice, which has been done them by an arbitrary change in the standard of value, and which change has produced such dreadful and so notorious calamities.

31. To this his humble and earnest prayer your Petitioner begs leave only to add a representation, that, long foreseeing the calamities, which have now fallen upon his country with such astounding force, your Petitioner has, during eleven years, omitted no means within his humble sphere and capacity to produce the adoption of measures such as those now humbly submitted to the transcendent wisdom of your Honourable House; and that, upon several occasions, he has earnestly besought members of your Honourable House to aid him, by proposing resolutions or otherwise, in the discharge of this important public duty; but, that, whether from indolence, indecision, or some other cause to your Petitioner unknown, he has never been able to obtain any thing beyond repeatedly broken promises of such aid; and, therefore it is that your Petitioner, in whose breast no time, no distance, no calamity, no injuries, can ever extinguish or damp the ardent love which he has always borne his native country, has now ventured, though with great deference and humility, to address directly to your Honourable House the exposition and prayer contained in this his most humble Petition.

And your Petitioner,
As in all duty and humility bound,
Will ever pray.
WM. COBBETT.

MARKETS.

Average Prices of CORN through-
out ENGLAND, for the week end-
ing March 2.

Per Quarter.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat ..	54	0	Rye	38	10
Barley ..	37	1	Beans ...	48	3
Oats	29	9	Pease ...	49	11

Total Quantity of Corn returned as
Sold in the Maritime Districts, for
the week ended March 2.

	Qrs.		Qrs.
Wheat ..	35,831	Rye	266
Barley ..	27,332	Beans . . .	3,338
Oats ...	10,159	Pease	1,285

Corn Exchange, Mark Lane.

Quantities and Prices of British
Corn, &c. sold and delivered in
this Market, during the week ended
Saturday, March 3.

	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat..	3,637	for 10,577	1	5	Average, 58	1	
Barley..	5,460	.. 10,494	18	1	.....	38	5
Oats..	4,665	.. 7,679	13	0	.....	32	11
Rye....	—	.. 0	0	0	.....	0	0
Beans..	1,210	.. 2,889	3	7	.....	47	9
Pease..	881	.. 2,216	2	1	.....	50	3

Friday, March 9. — The arrivals
of Grain this week are small, owing
to the boisterous weather. As the
top price of Flour has not yet ad-
vanced, the Wheat trade has become
dull at the advance of last Monday.
Barley and Beans are heavy in sale,
and hardly maintain the terms last
quoted. There has been little done

in the Oat trade this week, and the
prices of this article are unaltered.

Monday, March 12. — The ex-
tremely boisterous state of the
weather, during the early part of
last week, kept the supplies back,
but, towards the close of the week,
the arrivals increased, and this morn-
ing, having a further accession of
samples, the market presents a to-
lerably full appearance of nearly all
descriptions of Grain. The attempts
to advance the top price of Flour
having entirely failed, the Wheat
trade has become very dull, and
prices may be reported 2s. to 3s. per
qr. lower than on Monday last.

The Barley trade is very heavy,
and as very little, even of Malting
quality, exceeds 40s. the quarter, the
trade may therefore be stated lower.
Beans and Pease are more plentiful
than of late, and each kind of these
articles, are quoted 1s. per quarter
cheaper. There has been so limited
a demand for Oats to-day, that to
effect any sales, 1s. per quarter re-
duction in price must be submitted
to. Beans, Pease and Oats, fit for
Seed, are so scarce, as to sell at prices
considerably above the annexed quo-
tations. Spring Tares are again con-
siderably advanced; some few are
held as high as 14s. per bushel.

Price on board Ship as under.

Flour, per sack	46s. — 50s.
— Seconds	42s. — 44s.
— North Country ..	40s. — 44s.

Account of Wheat, &c. arrived in the Port of London, from March 5 to March 10, both inclusive.

	Qrs.		Qrs.
Wheat ..	4,490	Tares	313
Barley ..	4,393	Linseed ..	1819
Malt	3,561	Rapeseed .	—
Oats	5,923	Brank ..	—
Beans ...	1,151	Mustard ..	8
Flour	9,915	Flax	—
Rye	71	Hemp	69
Pease	1,185	Seeds	50
Foreign.—Oats, 1,865 ; and Beans, 5,255 quarters.			

Monday, March 12.—The arrivals from Ireland last week were, 5,363 casks of Butter, and 4,426 bales of Bacon; and from Foreign Ports, 129 casks of Butter. The stock of fine Butter is unusually small, and very high prices are obtained for such. The stock of Bacon is very large, prices nearly as before; demand moderate.

HOPS.

Price of Hops, per Cwt. in the Borough.

Monday, March 12.—Our trade remains dull, but we cannot quote any alteration in price since last report. Currency as under:—Kent, pockets, from 90s. to 120s.; bags, 76s. to 90s. Sussex pockets, 82s. to 92s.; bags, 66s. to 72s.

Maidstone, March 8.—The Hop Trade has been very dull this week, and what few bags were sold, did not fetch such prices as before.

Price of Bread.—The price of the 4lb. Loaf is stated at 9d. by the full-priced Bakers.

COAL MARKET, March 9.

Ships at Market. Ships sold. Price.

28 Newcastle 24 .. 33s. 0d. to 40s. 3d.
20 Sunderland 17 .. 35s. 0d. — 41s. 9d.

SMITHFIELD, Monday, March 12.

Though the number of sheep at this market on Friday would be considered a customary supply, yet an eagerness of demand occasioned an extraordinary rise in price, as compared with that day week, say 7s. or 8s. a-head, and in some instances more. Good Beef was also a ready sale, on the terms fully of last Monday.—The supply to this day's market is moderate. In Beef there is little or no alteration; it sells quite as well as on Monday last; and here and there, for choice things, something more has been given; but Mutton does not sell so high as on Friday. The best polled Sheep reach 4s. 10d., and shorn 4s. 4d., and the highest price for Downs is 5s. Trade pretty good.

Per Stone of 8 pounds (alive).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	3	10	to	5 0
Mutton	4	0	—	5 0
Veal	5	0	—	5 8
Pork	4	8	—	5 6
Lamb	0	0	—	0 0

Beasts	2,261	Sheep	20,120
Calves	182	Pigs	185

NEWGATE, (same day.)

Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	3	4	to	4 4
Mutton	3	4	—	4 2
Veal	3	8	—	5 8
Pork	3	8	—	5 8
Lamb	0	0	—	0 0

LEADENHALL, (same day.)

Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	3	2	to	4 6
Mutton	3	2	—	4 2
Veal	4	0	—	5 8
Pork	4	4	—	6 0
Lamb	0	0	—	0 0

POTATOES.

SPITALFIELDS, per Ton.				
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>		<i>l.</i> <i>s.</i>
Ox-Nobles.....	3	10	to	3 15
Middlings.....	0	0	—	0 0
Chats	2	0	—	0 0
Common Red..	0	0	—	0 0
Onions, 0s. 0d.—0s. 0d. per bush.				

BOROUGH, per Ton.				
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>		<i>l.</i> <i>s.</i>
Ox-Nobles	3	10	to	4 0
Middlings.....	2	10	—	0 0
Chats.....	2	0	—	0 0
Common Red. .	3	10	—	4 0

HAY and STRAW, per Load.

<i>Smithfield.</i> —Hay....		90s. to 115s.
Straw...		32s. to 38s.
Clover. 110s. to 135s.		
<i>St. James's.</i> —Hay...		84s. to 135s.
Straw ..		34s. to 45s.
Clover. 120s. to 135s.		
<i>Whitechapel.</i> —Hay....		75s. to 115s.
Straw...		32s. to 36s.
Clover..		80s. to 135s.

AVERAGE PRICE OF CORN, sold in the Maritime Counties of
England and Wales, for the Week ended March 2, 1827.

	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
London*	56	5	38	6	30	9
Essex	56	5	37	6	28	4
Kent.....	55	8	38	10	30	6
Sussex.....	54	0	42	1	28	9
Suffolk	54	0	35	3	29	5
Cambridgeshire.....	54	4	35	4	26	8
Norfolk	52	0	35	3	29	0
Lincolnshire	53	7	40	11	29	0
Yorkshire	52	3	39	10	29	1
Durham	53	9	40	9	32	0
Northumberland	52	0	37	8	33	8
Cumberland	59	6	35	6	34	4
Westmoreland	59	7	45	0	36	7
Lancashire.....	59	3	41	0	33	9
Cheshire	57	7	48	0	34	5
Gloucestershire.....	58	0	43	10	38	3
Somersetshire	55	4	39	11	31	8
Monmouthshire.....	58	0	49	4	0	0
Devonshire.....	54	9	37	4	24	5
Cornwall.....	56	9	37	0	32	1
Dorsetshire	52	0	38	4	35	0
Hampshire	54	3	38	4	28	4
North Wales	59	8	44	1	29	3
South Wales	57	4	39	4	26	1

* The London Average is always that of the Week preceding.

Liverpool, March 6.—The arrivals of Grain from Ireland, and Coastways, have been very considerable, and the sales, up to last Saturday, were very languid, at previous quotations; but on the arrival here of the Resolutions proposed by his Majesty's Ministers, a re-action immediately took place, when we had an advance of every description of Wheat of 4d. to 6d. per 70 lbs. In other Grain there was no alteration.

Imported into Liverpool, from February 27th to March 5th, 1827, inclusive:—Wheat, 13,364; Barley, 5,277; Oats, 32,617; Rye, 513; Malt, 2,812; Beans, 1,300; Pease, 147 quarters. Flour, 3,629 sacks, per 280 lbs. Oatmeal, 1,713 packs, per 240 lbs. American Flour, 1,435 barrels.

Bristol, March 10.—The Corn Markets at this place are by no means lively. Considerable quantities of foreign Beans, Oats, and Indian Corn, have been imported here within the last ten or twelve days, which, in some degree, accounts for the dullness in our Markets. Supplies good, and present prices about as follow:—Wheat, from 6s. to 7s. 9d.; Barley, 4s. 4½d. to 5s. 9d.; Beans, 5s. 6d. to 8s. 3d.; Oats, 2s. 3d. to 4s. 1½d.; and Malt, 6s. to 8s. per bushel, Imperial. Flour, Seconds, 34s. to 44s. per bag.

Chelmsford, March 8.—The prices of Grain at our market this day as under:—White Wheat, 62s. to 68s.; Red ditto, 56s. to 62s.; Barley, 36s. to 40s.; Oats, 23s. to 35s.; Beans, tick, 46s. to 50s.; Pease, Grey, 48s. to 52s. per quarter.

Guildford, March 10.—Wheat, new, for meal, 15l. to 17l. 15s. per load. Barley, 37s. to 40s.; Oats, 33s. to 40s.; Beans, 53s. to 58s.; Pease, grey, 60s. to 62s.; ditto, boilers, 62s. to 64s. per quarter. Tares, 12s. per bushel.

Horncastle, March 10.—We had a moderate supply of Wheat. Barley and Oats were plentiful, and something lower. Other articles nearly as last week.—Wheat, from 56s. to 58s.; Barley, 35s. to 38s.; Oats, 32s. to 38s.; Pease, 68s. to 70s.; Beans, 58s. to 60s.; and Rye from 42s. to 45s. per quarter.

Manchester, March 10.—Since this day week the Corn Trade has been in a very unsettled state. The advance in the London market on Monday, and Liverpool on Tuesday, caused the holders of Wheat and Flour to demand higher rates, which were only complied with by necessitous buyers: the Millers and Bakers who were pretty well stocked, declined purchasing until they were nearer out. Our Market to-day was well attended, and there was a fair demand for fine Wheats, at an advance of 4d. to 6d. per 70 lbs. The arrivals of Oats into Liverpool being large, a small advance of ½d. per 45 lbs. was with difficulty obtained. Boiling Pease being scarce, an advance of 3d. per bushel was readily obtained. Malt dull sale. Flour has been held at 3s. per sack advance, but only 1s. or 2s. could be obtained. In Barley and Beans no alteration.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 10.—We had this morning the largest supply of Wheat that we have had this season from the farmers, and we had also some arrivals coastwise. The market commenced by the sellers demanding much higher prices, but the millers succeeded in buying at not more than 2s. and 3s. per quarter above the prices of last Saturday. Rye is rather dull sale.

Reading, March 10.—We had a small supply of Wheat at our market this day, the general quality of which was not so good as that of the week before, which caused a dull sale, at much the same prices. Old Wheat, 57s. to 68s.; New, 55s. to 68s. per quarter by the Imperial measure. The quantity of Barley was rather short, but it met a heavy sale, at a reduction of 1s. per quarter.

COUNTRY CATTLE AND MEAT MARKETS, &c.

Horncastle, March 10.—Beef, 8s. per stone of 14 lbs.; Mutton, 7d.; Pork, 6d. to 7d.; and Veal, 7d. to 8d. per lb.

Manchester Smithfield Market, March 7.—Our supply of Beasts and Sheep to this day's market was not so large as last week, but fully adequate to the demand, and only the best qualities reached our highest quotations. Veal being scarce and more in demand, an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. was readily complied with. The supply of Pigs was large (principally Irish), and met tolerably free sale, at an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.—Beef, 5d. to 7d.; Mutton, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Veal, 6d. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and Pork, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6d. per lb. sinking offal.

At *Morpeth Market*, March 7, there was a good supply of Cattle; and there being a great demand, both sold readily, at a little advance in price.—Beef, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.; Mutton, 7s. to 8s. per stone, sinking offal.

Norwich Castle Meadow, March 10.—A large supply of fat Cattle to-day caused many of them to go off unsold; those disposed of, were at 7s. 6d. to 8s. per stone of 14 lbs. sinking offal; the supply of Store Stock was also good; Scots sold at 3s. 9d. to 4s. per stone when fat; only a few Short-horns at 3s. to 3s. 6d.; Only a small number of Sheep penned; Shearlings, 24s. to 29s.; fat ones to 35s.; Hoggets, 16s. to 23s.; Pigs, a flat sale. Meat: Beef, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Veal, 6d. to 8d.; Mutton, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and Pork, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8d. per lb.